

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 302462

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OPEC AFTERMATH: EFFECT ON LIBYAN POLICY

EMBASSY TRIPOLI POINTS OUT THAT THE ATTACK ON OPEC'S VIENNA HEADQUARTERS AND THE RESULTING MURDER OF LIBYAN OFFICIAL IZMIRLI BY TERRORISTS WHOSE POLITICAL LINE MIRRORS HIS OWN IS A SEVERE EMBARRASSMENT TO QADHAFI. THAT THE TERRORISTS RETURNED TO ALGERIA AFTER HAVING APPARENTLY BEEN DENIED SANCTUARY IN TRIPOLI IS A GOOD SIGN. ONE CAN AT LEAST HOPE THAT IZMIRLI'S DEATH WILL BRING HOME TO QADHAFI AND COMPANY THE COSTS OF POLITICAL TERRORISM. (CONFIDENTIAL) TRIPOLI 1443, 12/23.)

2. SYRIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON DISCOUNTED

EMBASSIES BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS COMMENT THAT THEY GIVE LITTLE
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PAGE 02 STATE 302462

CREDENCE TO SPECULATION THAT SYRIAN MILITARY UNITS PARTICI-

PATED IN THE DECEMBER 22 SKIRMISHES IN LEBANON'S ZAHLE AREA.
EMBASSY BEIRUT:

--OPINES THAT AT MOST THE ATTACKERS WERE A MIXED BAG
OF LEFTISTS, PROBABLY INCLUDING SOME MEMBERS OF SATQA,
WHOM CHAMOUN CALLED "FOREIGNERS;"

--WARNS THAT EXTREME CAUTION IS NECESSARY IN ASSESSING
ANY STATEMENTS EMANATING FROM SPOKESMEN ON BOTH SIDES,
AS THERE IS CURRENTLY TOO MUCH CONFUSION, MISINFORMA-
TION AND DOWNRIGHT PREVARICATION EVIDENT IN LEBANON.

EMBASSY DAMASCUS:

--TURNED UP ONLY PUZZLED SPECULATION AMONG THE DIPLO-
MATIC COMMUNITY ABOUT WHAT THE SYRIANS WOULD HAVE TO
GAIN BY THE ALLEGED INTERVENTIONS AT THIS PARTICULAR
TIME;

--OBSERVES THAT THE LAST THING THE SARG WANTS IS TO
BECOME EMBROILED MILITARILY IN LEBANON THREE WEEKS
PRIOR TO THE SC SESSION ON THE MIDDLE EAST. (SECRET)
BEIRUT 15472 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 5128, 12/23.)

3. ARGENTINA: PERON HANGS ON, BUT FOR HOW LONG?

ALTHOUGH THE REBELLION OF DISSIDENT AIR FORCE OFFICERS HAS
ENDED, THE GOA AND THE COUNTRY REMAIN IN A STATE OF CRISIS.
THE MILITARY IS CONCERNED BY MRS. PERON'S APPARENT REFUSAL
TO RESIGN OR TAKE LEAVE AND HER INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE
REVOLT OR THE RUNNING OF HER OFFICE.

EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES NOTES THAT THE EXISTENCE OF MRS.
PERON'S GOVERNMENT HAS AGAIN BEEN PROLONGED, BUT TIME IS
CLEARLY RUNNING OUT, AS THE ARMED FORCES TIRE OF WAITING
FOR CIVILIANS TO REMOVE HER BY CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, REUTER REPORTS THAT IN THE EVENING
OF DECEMBER 23 A LARGE FORCE OF LEFTWING GUERILLAS ATTACKED
A MILITARY ARSENAL SOUTH OF BUENOS AIRES, WHILE ANOTHER
SECRET

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PAGE 03 STATE 302462

GROUP SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACKED THREE NEARBY POLICE POSTS AND
A REGIMENTAL BARRACKS IN LA PLATA. HEAVY FIGHTING RESULTED
BETWEEN THE GUERILLAS AND ARMY UNITS. (CONFIDENTIAL)
BUENOS AIRES 8351, 12/23.) KISSINGER

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